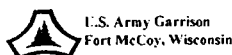
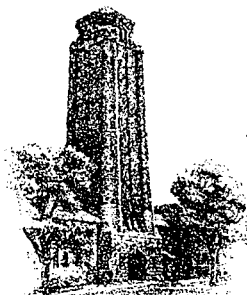


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FACT SHEET REGARDING ORDNANCE SURVEY AND REMOVAL 38 ACRE FORMER
FIRING RANGE FORT SHERIDAN IL
1/1/1995
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY



Ordnance Survey and Removal 38-Acre Former Firing Range Fort Sheridan, Illinois

This fact sheet provides information on the ordnance survey and removal project that is currently underway on a 38-acre parcel located on the northeast corner of Fort Sheridan. Surveys were completed in 1994 and a final removal is scheduled to begin around the middle of April 1996. Questions relating to the ordnance survey and removal activities should be directed to the Fort Sheridan BRAC Environmental Office at (847) 266-6321.

Background

Since Fort Sheridan's opening in 1887, the U.S. Army has carried out a number of training and administrative functions at the base. Prior to World War II, Fort Sheridan was involved in many types of training activities which involved handling, storage, and use of various types of military ordnance. Typical ordnance used at Fort Sheridan included bullets, small arms ammunition, mortar shells, hand grenades, and various anti-aircraft artillery shells used in training exercises. After World War II, mission related ordnance activities ceased and the fort was mainly used for administrative purposes.

In response to the Base Realignment and Closure Act (BRAC) of 1988, Fort Sheridan was selected for realignment and partial closure. As a safety measure, closing military bases across the country are evaluating and surveying properties for unexploded ordnance and related materials prior to property transfer. As part of this evaluation process, a 38-acre parcel which was originally used as a firing range, was identified as having potential ordnance hazards. This parcel is located on the northeast corner of the base and can be seen in Figure 1. The Army is currently conducting a comprehensive ordnance survey at Fort Sheridan to identify additional areas that may have ordnance, to survey and sample suspect areas, and then remove any items found. The Army Corps of Engineers, Huntsville Division, a center of expertise in ordnance detection and removal, is managing the effort at Fort Sheridan as well as at many bases throughout the country. This group has contracted Human Factors Applications, a group of highly trained professionals, to conduct the survey, sampling, and removal activities.

What is Military Ordnance?

Ordnance refers to various weapons and ammunition used by the military forces. Ordnance includes explosive materials such as bullets, small arms ammunition, mortar and artillery shells, and other explosive materials.

Unexploded ordnance, or UXO, is any ordnance material that has failed to function or has been discarded. The item may still be "live" or capable of exploding and causing serious injury. Other UXO items may be "inert" and contain no explosives. However, **NEVER PICK UP** or handle any objects you suspect to be UXO.

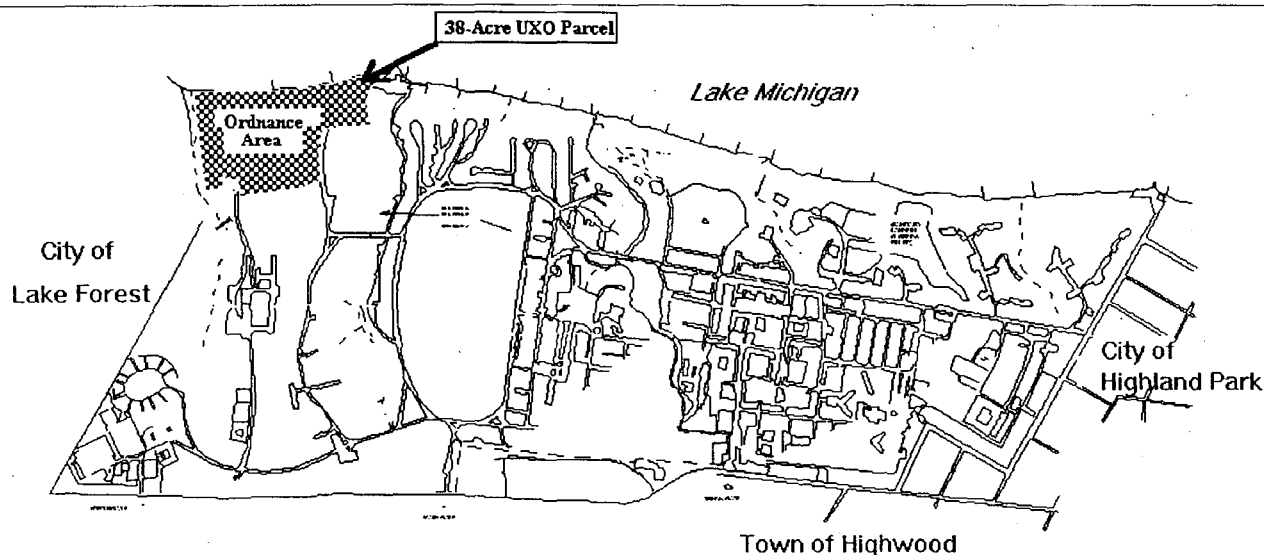


Figure 1: 38-Acre UXO Parcel Fort Sheridan, Illinois

Ordnance Survey and Removal, 38-Acre Former Firing Range

The ordnance survey and removal activities for the 38-Acre Former Firing Range are being conducted in three steps as described below.

STEP 1: Preliminary Assessment

The first step involved a detailed records review of available information about the use, handling, and disposal of ordnance. In addition, a visual site inspection was conducted and personnel knowledgeable about past activities at the fort were interviewed. As a result of these investigations, the 38-Acre Former Firing Range was identified as requiring further evaluation to confirm the presence or absence of ordnance.

STEP 2: Survey and Sampling

Based on information from Step 1, the 38-acre parcel was selected for surveying and sampling. Surveys were conducted on statistically determined portions of the suspect area to evaluate the potential for hazards. Surveying was done with state of the art instruments that are capable of detecting metal objects and irregular patterns in the soil layers. Suspect areas identified by the metal detectors are then sampled by a team of ordnance experts.

During sampling, ordnance experts dig in the area identified by metal detectors to determine if the item is ordnance or some other inert metal object. If ordnance is found, the next step is to detonate it in the area it was found. The ordnance teams do as little unnecessary moving and handling of the items as possible to minimize any additional danger. If an item is considered safe to move, efforts are made to combine the detonation with other ordnance items in order to reduce impacts to the environment. Safety is the primary concern when conducting ordnance operations and strict measures are followed when conducting detonations to eliminate any risk or impact to base residents, employees, and local residents. Surveys and sampling on the suspect area were conducted by the International Technology Corporation in 1994. During the survey, a total of 14 items were located, including mortar shells, a rifle grenade, a land mine, and a 75mm artillery shell.

STEP 3: Removal

Based on the conclusions drawn from the survey and sampling results, the Army moved forward with plans to survey for and remove ordnance from the entire area. Ordnance removals are similar to the surveys and sampling discussed in **STEP 2**, except on a larger scale. During a removal action, the Army's goal is to remove all ordnance items necessary to ensure that the area is clear of potential hazards.

Human Factors Applications (HFA), experts in the field of ordnance removal, have been contracted by the Army to conduct removal operations. Work is expected to begin in April 15th and will last approximately one and a half months from the start date. HFA works four ten-hour days, Monday through Thursday of each week. For safety purposes, a 800-foot safety perimeter is established during the day while technicians are working.

Safety and Noise Concerns

In order to maintain the safety perimeter during daily operations, access will be limited at portions of the McCormick Woods Nature Preserve, Fort Sheridan Golf Course, and the Lake Michigan beach front. The Army will maintain this safety zone to ensure the safety of local residents, base personnel, and any visitors to the area. Area residents may notice loud blasts in the area as a result of these activities. Ordnance detonations are similar in volume to the noise from a shotgun blast (roughly 150 decibels).

Protection Of Natural Areas

State listed threatened and endangered plant species are known to exist along the bluffs and ravines around Fort Sheridan. The Army is dedicated to the protection of these species and the prevention of damage to the sensitive bluffs that overlook Lake Michigan. The Army is working with HFA, the Lake County Forest Preserve District, and the Illinois Nature Preserve Commission to identify and prevent any unnecessary damage to these natural areas during the removal activities. Removal work is scheduled in early spring, prior to much seasonal growth. This will enable HFA to conduct operations without much, if any, brush clearance. Ordnance removal activities, by nature, are very delicate and meticulous involving careful hand excavations. As a result, very little environmental damage is caused by removal operations. If items are found in sensitive areas and they are declared safe to move, HFA will detonate them in a less environmentally sensitive area within the 38-acre parcel. Detonation points are covered with soil and sandbags in an effort to minimize damage to nearby areas.

For More Information

If you are interested in learning more about the Ordnance Survey and Removal Project, or any other environmental programs at Fort Sheridan, please call or visit the BRAC Environmental Office at the location listed below.

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475 Blackhawk Drive
Fort Sheridan, Illinois 60037
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FAX: (847) 266-5050